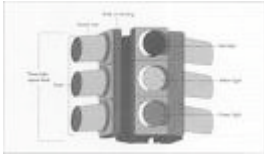


Traffic Signal Information



Traffic Signal Installation:

The purpose of a traffic signal is to provide the orderly movement of traffic by assigning right-of-way at intersecting streets. Installed under the appropriate conditions, a traffic signal is very effective.

It is important that the installation of such an important device be preceded by a thorough engineering study. To preclude the indiscriminate use of traffic signals, the Federal Highway Administration has published the **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices** (MUTCD). The MUTCD contains guidelines ("warrants") for determining when a traffic signal is necessary. The MUTCD is the federal standard governing traffic control devices in the United States.

Benefits of Traffic Signals

A traffic signal can dramatically change the traffic patterns in and around an intersection.

Benefits of Signals

When installed under conditions that justify its use, a traffic signal can:

- Interrupt extremely heavy flows to permit the crossing of minor movements that could not otherwise move safely through an intersection.
- Increase the traffic handling capacity of an intersection.
- Reduce certain types of accidents, most notably right-angle (broadside) collisions.

Will a traffic signal reduce crashes at our intersection?

Traffic signals don't always prevent collisions. Typically, when a signal is installed, the total number of crashes increases, but the severity decreases. Where signals are used, the most common result is a reduction in right-angle collisions, however, rear-end crashes are prone to show an increase. Signals also may give pedestrians a false sense of security.

Pedestrian Crossing Information

What is the proper way to cross a street at an intersection?

This subject isn't as simple and straightforward as it may sound. At intersections where there is no pedestrian signal, pedestrians should cross in conjunction with the traffic signals. In other words, cross when the facing light turns green, being sure to watch out for cars running red lights or making turns into your path. Keep an extra sharp eye over your shoulder for cars turning right.



Three quarters of the pedestrians killed in road accidents are hit outside of crosswalks because drivers do not expect them there.

At intersections where there is a pedestrian signal, cross when the "WALK" or walking pedestrian symbol lights up. A flashing "DON'T WALK" or upraised hand symbol means that if you haven't yet entered the intersection, it's too late to cross the street before the traffic signal changes. If already in the intersection, you should have ample time to get to the other side safely. A steady "DON'T WALK" or a steady upraised hand signal means it's too late to begin crossing. Don't enter the street, but quickly finish crossing if you have already started.

Although the pedestrian signal indicates your legal right to cross an intersection, it is important to be cautious when crossing any street. Cross intersections defensively. Regardless of the presence of a pedestrian signal, cross as quickly as possible. Minimize your time in the roadway. Always watch for turning vehicles.

In short, you do have the legal right to cross, but that doesn't protect you from a careless motorist.